

According to both Henry A. Osborn and Johannes Wilbert (see my review of the latter's *Warao Oral Literature* in *IJAL* 31:104-6), Warao, spoken in several mutually intelligible dialects, has the following segmental unit phonemes: /i e a o u/ together with their rare though distinctively nasalized counterparts, /ĩ ẽ ă õ ũ/, and /p t k kʷ m n s h r w y/. /p/ = [p] or [b], /r/ = [d], [r], or [ĩ] ([d] being more common initially, and [r] being more common in intervocalic position). The above list has, however, been compiled from several sources, which I have thought best to follow, writing both *b* and *p*, *d* and *r*.

Warao is not known to be related to any other language, though affiliation with Chibchan has been suggested. Items that seem to be shared with neighboring languages therefore probably show borrowing. Such include W(arao) *ipihi*, A *ibihi*, K *e:piti*, and IC *ibit̩*, all meaning 'remedy; medicine'; W *-roko* and A *-reroko* 'mouth'; W *wari* and A *oádi* 'long'; W *hehehe* and A *hehe* 'yellow'; W *barabara* and IC *baká-bala* 'roll(ing)' (cf. A *balala* 'round'); W *-koina* and A *-koana*, both instrumental suffixes; W (*hekunu*) *eku* and A (*hikihi*) *ako*, both meaning 'in/on (the fire)'; W *hio* and IC *híu* 'body hair; thorn'; W *matáro* and Breton's IC *matállou* 'calabash'; W *waha* and A *oaa* 'dry'; W *duhu-n* 'sit', which may well be related to T *duhu* and G *tuhú*, both meaning 'bench'; W *-rapo* and *-rapo* of several Cariban and Arawakan languages, all meaning 'knife'; and W *mo(a)* 'give', which may be compared to G *maa*, with the same meaning; W *hahe* and T *nahe*, both 'paddle (n.)'.

Taylor, Douglas. 1977. Languages of the West Indies.
Baltimore: John Hopkins University Press.